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JFK: conspiracy theories.

Fantasy of killing

WASHINGTON. — Lee Harvey Oswald fantasised about killing people even as a teenager, according to newly released documents.

A CIA memo written four months after President Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas describes his psychiatric history.

"It is abundantly clear from all the materials reviewed that Lee Oswald was psychiatrically disturbed from his earliest youth," CIA analyst Arthur Dooley wrote in the memo dated March 20, 1964.

By that time, investigators into the killing were zeroing in on Oswald as the lone assassin. "All available evidence points to a solitary act of a mentally unstable person."

Dooley had access to secret material, including transcripts of a psychiatrist's examination of Oswald at age 13.

"That he had a compulsive urge to kill people at times showed its beginnings in the aforementioned psychiatric reports in which he acknowledged fantasies about being all-powerful and being able to do anything he wanted," Dooley wrote. "When asked if this ever involved hurting and killing people, he said that it did on occasions."

The memo says that when Oswald's mother received the diagnosis that Oswald was suffering "serious personality damage," she ignored it.

Also among the stacks of documents released at the National Archives were grisly photographs taken at Oswald's autopsy after he was shot in the basement of the Dallas jail by Jack Ruby days after the Kennedy assassination.

The photographs reveal scars on Oswald's left wrist that, according to the documents, resulted from a suicide attempt in 1959 shortly after Oswald defected to the Soviet Union.